

The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce  
**The 2023 Word Awards Short List**  
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2022

**NOMINEES ARE PRESENTED ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME**

## UNPUBLISHED WORK CLASSES

### FRESH INK {Student Writing Awards}

- Jamie Birtch: Smiths Falls, ON "*Phobia: Reign of Fear*"
- Daragon Keith: Mascouche, QC "*The Green Serenity*"
- Sarah VanZandbeek: Edmonton, AB "*I Am Thomas*"

### IN THE BEGINNING {Unpublished Author Awards}

#### MANUSCRIPT—FIRST 3 CHAPTERS

- Paul Breen: Burlington, ON "*Coal Fusion*"
- Linda Brierly: Clearwater, B.C. "*Edge of the Ledge*"
- Willy Kotiuga: Pointe-Claire, QC "*Theology Breakfast Club*"
- Pirkko Rytkonen: Stouffville, ON "*Between Us*"

#### SHORT PIECE

- Rebecca Breen: Brantford ON "*When My Grandma Could Take Me Shopping*"
- Melissa Myers: Geary NB "*The Muslim Father*"
- Eugenia Robertson: Barrie ON "*Identity: Where Could I Find it?*"

#### SHORT STORY

- Brigitte Farrell: Grimsby, ON "*An Inconvenient Life*"
- Daniel Lewczuk: Burlington, ON "*The Beckoning*"

#### POETRY

- Maureen Hafso: Edmonton AB "*An Ode for Father's Day*"
- Anita McBride: Surrey BC "*Barn Owl Sleeping*"

## CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT

- Val deVries: St Catharines ON "*The Worry/Free Challenge*"
- Sylvia St. Cyr: Niverville MB "*Grand*"
- SueAnne van Galen: Kitchener ON "*A Striking Appearance*"
- Larry McCloskey: Ottawa ON "*The University of Lost Causes*"
- Ellen Duffield: Moose Jaw SK "*Maroon Cove*"

## DIGITAL ENTRY CLASSES

### ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES – CHRISTIAN

#### COLUMN SINGLE

- Floyd Brobbel: Oakville, ON "*The freedom of religion or belief movement needs to be honest and talk about this*" (The Voice of the Martyrs)
- David Guretzki: Ottawa ON "*Is the Church divided? What Ephesians says about unity and division*" (Faith Today)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Home Equity Tax*" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)
- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC "*Binding Our Digital Tongues*" (Light Magazine)

#### DEVOTIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL

- Karen deBlieck: Brantford, ON "*Fractured Rainbows*" (Sisters Ignited Media & Publishing)
- Elena Dee: Oakville, ON "*Bad Reception*" (Keys for Kids)
- Tim Perry: Grunthal, MB "*Living in two worlds: The hope of the gospel at Christmas*" (Faith Today)

#### LONG FEATURE

- Patricia Paddey: Winnipeg MB "*How MAiD is transforming Canadian end-of-life care: And what we ought to do about it*" (Faith Today)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*UBC Reflections*" (Fraser River Books)
- Jens Zimmermann: Vancouver, BC "*Living Faithfully in a Secular Age*" (CRUX)

#### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Karen deBlieck: Brantford, ON "*Fractured Rainbows*" (Sisters Ignited Media & Publishing)
- Ron Mahler: Lindsay, ON "*My Encounter With A Wounded Bird Reminded Me of Something*" (Medium.com)
- Karen Stiller: Ottawa ON "*Christians at the convoy: How ordinary Christians ended up at Canada's noisiest protest and what it reveals about clashing views on freedom*" (Faith Today)
- Rod Wilson: Vancouver, BC "*A human Christian response to depression: Avoiding secular and spiritual missteps*" (Faith Today)

## PROFILE / HUMAN INTEREST

- Maureen Hafso: Edmonton AB "*MY MOM*" (Calvary Crosswinds)
- Barbara Hein & Thelma Corris: St. Catharines, ON "*Muriel's Miraculous Recovery*" (testimony/Enrich)
- Patricia Paddey: Winnipeg MB "*Recovering the voices of women long silenced: Inside the work of Canadian academic Marion Taylor*" (Faith Today)

## BLOG–SINGLE

- Rachel Baarda: Ottawa ON "*Walk about Zion: What the Jerusalem ramparts walk taught me about the Eternal City*"
- Lynn Dove: Cochrane AB "*Dragonfly Dance*"
- N.J. Lindquist: Markham ON "*Thoughts About My Dad 30 Years After His Death*"

## SHORT STORY

- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB "*Christmas at the Crossroads*"
- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB "*Taste Budding*"
- John Van Rys: Dunnville, ON "*The Homely Dreams of a Silly Soul*" (Solum Literary Journal)

## SONG LYRICS

- Jonathan Maracle: Tyendinaga Territory, ON "*I See Beauty*"
- Sally Meadows: Saskatoon SK "*You Are Loved*"

## ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET

### LONG FEATURE - GENERAL MARKET

- Susie Colby: Vancouver, BC "*Companionship in Grief*" (The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*UBC Reflections*" (Fraser River Books)

### SHORT STORY – GENERAL MARKET

- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB "*Taste Budding*"
- John Van Rys: Dunnville, ON "*Parking Spots*" (Blank Spaces)

### STAND ALONE ARTICLE – GENERAL MARKET

- David Kitz: Orleans, ON "*David Kilgour, a non-partisan MP who staunchly defended human rights*" (The Ottawa Citizen/Post Media)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Home Equity Tax*" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)

### COLUMN SERIES – GENERAL AND CHRISTIAN

- Bruce Clemenger: Perth ON "*The Gathering Place*" ("*The priority for health care*" Sep/Oct and "*Advocating for human dignity*" Nov/Dec)" (Faith Today)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Transgenderism/Immensity*" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie MB "*Through the Valley of Shadow* (Parts 2&3)" (PostMedia (The Graphic Leader))

## PUBLISHED BOOKS CLASSES

### BOOKS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

#### CHILDREN

- Tim J. Huff and Margie Timpson : Aurora ON "*The Jellybean Kid*" (Castle Quay Books) Illustrated by: Tim Huff
- Marcia Laycock: High River AB "*Merrigold's Very Best Home*" (Siretona Kids) Illustrated by: Kyla Wiebe
- Susan Reimer: Cochrane ON "*Strawberry Tea*" (Word Alive Press) Illustrated by: Sara Thompson

#### CONTEMPORARY

- Beverly Hopwood: Durham, ON "*Fear in the Forest*"
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie MB "*Lilly's Promise*" (Word Alive)

#### HISTORICAL

- Katherine J. Le Gresley: Newcastle, ON "*The Light Keeper*" (Word Alive Press)
- Donna Mann: Elora ON "*Emma's Call: A Woman of Faith*" (Word Alive Press)
- Susan A. Mason: Brampton, ON "*A Feeling of Home*" (Bethany House Publishing/Baker Publishing Group)

#### MYSTERY / SUSPENSE

- Johanna Frank: "*Jophiel's Secret*"
- Beverly Hopwood: Durham, ON "*Fear in the Forest*"
- Janet Sketchley: Dartmouth NS "*Bitter Truth*"

#### ROMANCE

- Mary Haskett: Kanata ON "*Journey to Joy; A Wartime Novel of Love & Redemption*" (KD Publishing)
- Laura Thomas: Kelowna BC "*The Christmas Cabin*" (Anaiah Press)
- Blossom Turner: Lake Country BC "*Jeanette's Gift*" (Wild Heart Books)

#### YOUNG ADULT

- Susan Reimer: Cochrane ON "*Penelope: A Companion Book to the Forged in Flames Series*" (Word Alive)
- Heidi M. Richardson: Olds, AB "*Tower of the Deep Vol 1: The Prisoner and the Traitor*"

## BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

### ACADEMIC

- Bruce J. Clemenger: Perth ON "*The New Orthodoxy: Canada's Emerging 'Civil Religion'*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Michael W. Goheen & Timothy Sheridan: Surrey, BC, "*Becoming a Missionary Church:*" (Baker Academic)
- W. Ross Hastings: Vancouver BC "*The Resurrection of Jesus Christ: Exploring its Theological Significance and Ongoing Relevance*" (Baker Academic)
- W. Ross Hastings: Vancouver BC "*Pastoral Ethics: Moral Formation as Life in the Trinity*" (Lexham Press)

### APOLOGETICS & BIBLICAL STUDIES

- John Bernier: Toronto, ON "*Rethinking the Dates of the New Testament: The Evidence for Early Composition*" (Regis College)
- Bruce J. Clemenger: Perth ON "*The New Orthodoxy: Canada's Emerging 'Civil Religion'*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Ann McCallum: Tottenham, ON "*A Holy Calling: Becoming a Godly Wife: A Bible Study in 1st Peter*" (Castle Quay Books)

### CHILDREN

- Tim J. Huff and Margie Timpson : Aurora ON "*The Jellybean Kid*" (Castle Quay Books) Illustrated by: Tim Huff
- Christie Thomas: Sherwood Park AB "*Fruit Full: 100 Family Experiences for Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*" (Kregel Publications) Illustrated by: Luke Flowers

### CHRISTIAN LIVING – SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- Valerie Limmer: Richmond Hill, ON "*Captive Set Free: How to Find Freedom Through Forgiving*"
- Darla Milne: Toronto ON "*Flame of God: The Fire of the Holy Spirit in Spain*" (Word Alive Press)
- Marva Tyndale: Mississauga, ON "*Ready. Set. Not Yet! Secrets for Teens about Sex*" (FriesenPress)

### CULTURE

- Idelette McVicker: Surrey, BC, "*Recovering Racists: Dismantling White Supremacy and Reclaiming Our Humanity*" (Baker Publishing Group)
- Belma Vardy: Burlington, ON "*Because the Spirit was There. Windows into First Nations Communities*" (Castle Quay Books)

### DEVOTIONAL

- Ron Mahler: Lindsay, ON "*Cross+Walk: Living Where the Kingdom of God and Our Window of Time Collide*" (Word Alive Press)
- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON "*Rooted : Daily Learning the Ways of Jesus*"
- Shireen Spencer: Toronto ON "*Prayers For You Today-365 Days of Heartfelt Prayers And Meditations*" (Word Alive Press)
- Gladys Thompson: Whitby ON "*Rebuild, Restore, Renew: Growing in Christ While Going Through Divorce*" (Word Alive Press)

## INSPIRATIONAL

- Bukola (Bookie) Adekanye: Oshawa ON "*Happily Whenever After*" (Oasis International Publishing)
- Angilee Clarke: Brampton, ON "*Captivated: Life with the Holy Spirit*" (Word Alive Press)
- Lisa Elliott: Ottawa, ON "*A Ministry Survival Guide: Straight from the Heart*" (Word Alive Press)
- Sterling A. Penney: Moncton, NB "*My Father's House*" (Word Alive Press Canada)

## INSTRUCTIONAL

- Ruth Esau: Calgary, AB "*Shifting Perspectives, Viewing Jesus Through a Leadership Lens*" (Word Alive Press)
- Valerie Limmer: Richmond Hill, ON "*Captive Set Free: How to Find Freedom Through Forgiving*"
- R.J. Robertson: Sechelt, BC "*Crouching Moses, Hidden Jesus*" (Word Alive Press)
- Rod Wilson: Vancouver BC "*Thank You. I'm Sorry. Tell Me More. How to Change the World with 3 Sacred Sayings*" (NavPress)

## LIFE STORIES—BIOGRAPHICAL

- Janet L. Bayman: Kelowna, BC "*Daring to Care God's Way: Growing Through a Lifetime of Adventures and Misadventures*"
- Terry Posthumus: Thamesford, ON "*Acquainted with Sorrow: When Your Life Feels Like the Worst is Yet to Come*" (Castle Quay Books)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Mennonite in Motion*" (Fraser River Books)

## LIFE STORIES—MEMOIR

- Shelly Calcagno: Beamsville ON "*The Longest Goodbye*" (Ambassador International)
- Janis Cox: Minesing, ON "*Be a Cancer Thriver*" (Butterfly Beacons - Janis Cox)
- Leah Marizan: Port Dover, ON "*No One Brings You a Casserole When Your Husband Goes to Rehab*" (Word Alive Press)
- Janet Williamson: Vernon BC "*God of the Valleys, Mysteries Along Life's Journey*" (Word Alive Press)

## PERSONAL GROWTH

- Stafford Edwards: Ottawa, ON "*Contrails and Other Life Tracks*"
- Lisa Elliott: Ottawa, ON "*A Ministry Survival Guide: Straight from the Heart*" (Word Alive Press)
- Ann Griffiths: Abbotsford, BC "*Reignite Your Leadership Heart*" (Redemption Press)
- Ron Mahler: Lindsay, ON "*Cross+Walk: Living Where the Kingdom of God and Our Window of Time Collide*" (Word Alive Press)
- Jen Pollock Michel: Cincinnati, OH "*In Good Time: 8 Habits for Reimagining Productivity, Resisting Hurry, and Practicing Peace*" (Baker Academic)
- Terry Posthumus: Thamesford, ON "*Acquainted with Sorrow: When Your Life Feels Like the Worst is Yet to Come*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Gladys Thompson: Whitby ON "*Rebuild, Restore, Renew: Growing in Christ While Going Through Divorce*" (Word Alive Press)
- Rod Wilson: Vancouver BC "*Thank You. I'm Sorry. Tell Me More. How to Change the World with 3 Sacred Sayings*" (NavPress)

## BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET FICTION

### CHILDREN–FICTION

- Fred Ash: Calgary, AB "*Jesse and the Elves*" (Siretona Creative)
- Karen Autio: Kelowna, BC "*I Can, Too!*" (Scholastic)
- Loraine Kemp: Kelowna, BC "*Luna*" (Crwth Press)
- Jael Richardson: Brampton, ON "*Because You Are*" (Harper Collins)
- Christina Van Starckenburg: Victoria, BC "*Anne's Adventure: A Pirate's ABCs*"

### ADULT – FICTION

- Leslie Ruth Damude: London, ON "*Hearts Of Wax*"
- Johanna Frank: Kitchener, On "*Jophiel's Secret*"

### YOUNG ADULT – FICTION

- Susan Cullen: Chatham, ON "*The World Collective*" (Chicken House Press)
- Jennifer Willcock: Kitchener, On "*Into the Forest*"

## BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET NON-FICTION

### CULTURE

- Elizabeth Shepherd: Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, QC "*Montreal*"
- Shiree A. Jeejeebhoy: Toronto, On "*Brain Injury, Trauma, and Grief: How to Heal When you are Alone*"

### LIFE STORIES

- Victoria Jurgens: Saskatoon, SK "*Plainfolk Stories from the Farm About the Impact German-Russian Farmers had on Two Countries and Seven Generations*" (FriesenPress)
- Marcia Magee McClelland: Osgoode, ON "*People Are Not Your Problem, They Are Your Purpose*" (Word Alive Press)
- John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "*Mennonite in Motion*" (Fraser River Books)
- Ashley and Brenda Tindall: Guelph, ON "*The Way I See Things: A Mother and Daughter Offer Hope Through Tragedy*"

## BOOKS – SPECIALTY BOOKS

- Vanessa Brobbel: Oakville, ON "*From Under the Altar*" (Genesis Publishing Group)
- Kay Gillen: Ladysmith BC "*Dancing Between the Raindrops*" (Writer)
- Sally Ito: Winnipeg MB "*Heart's Hydrography*" (Turnstone Press)

## SPECIALTY AWARDS

### DEBRA FIEGUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

- Bukola (Bookie) Adekanye: Oshawa ON "*Happily Whenever After*" (Oasis International Publishing)
- Karen Autio: Kelowna, BC "*I Can, Too!*" (Scholastic)
- Bruce Clemenger: Ottawa, ON "*The Gathering Place*" ("*The priority for health care*" Sep/Oct and "*Advocating for human dignity*" Nov/Dec)" (Faith Today)
- David Guretzki: Ottawa, ON "*Is the Church divided? What Ephesians says about unity and division*" (Faith Today)
- Tim J. Huff & Margie Timpson: Aurora, ON "*The Jellybean Kid*" (Castle Quay Books) Illustrated by Tim Huff
- David Kitz: Orleans ON "*David Kilgour, a non-partisan MP who staunchly defended human rights*" (The Ottawa Citizen/Post Media)
- Leah Marizan: Port Dover, ON "*No One Brings You a Casserole When Your Husband Goes to Rehab*" (Word Alive Press)
- Patricia Paddey: Winipeg MB "*Recovering the voices of women long silenced: Inside the work of Canadian academic Marion Taylor*" (Faith Today)
- Terry Posthumus: Thamesford, ON "*Acquainted with Sorrow: When Your Life Feels Like the Worst is Yet to Come*" (Castle Quay Books)
- Elizabeth Shepherd: Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides, QC "*Montreal*" (Writer)
- Karen Stiller: Ottawa, ON "*Christians at the convoy: How ordinary Christians ended up at Canada's noisiest protest and what it reveals about clashing views on freedom*" (Faith Today)
- Ashley and Brenda Tindall: Guelph, ON "*The Way I See Things: A Mother and Daughter Offer Hope Through Tragedy*"
- Blossom Turner: Lake Country BC "*Jeanette's Gift*" (Wild Heart Books)

### HARVEY/MACKEY JOURNALISM AWARD

- Susie Colby: Vancouver, BC "*Companionship in Grief*" (The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada)
- Sterling A. Penney: Moncton, NB "*My Father's House*" (Word Alive Press Canada)

### WRITER OF COLOUR

- Bukola (Bookie) Adekanye: Oshawa ON "*Happily Whenever After*" (Oasis International Publishing)
- Angilee Clarke: Brampton, ON "*Captivated: Life with the Holy Spirit*" (Word Alive Press)
- Karen deBlicke: Brantford, ON "*Fractured Rainbows*" (Sisters Ignited Media & Publishing)
- Stafford Edwards: Ottawa, ON "*Contrails and Other Life Tracks*"
- Sally Ito: Winipeg MB "*Heart's Hydrography*" (Turnstone Press)
- Shiree A. Jeejeebhoy: Toronto, ON "*Brain Injury, Trauma, and Grief: How to Heal When you are Alone*"
- Jael Richardson: Brampton, ON "*Because You Are*" (Harper Collins)
- Shireen Spencer: Toronto ON "*Prayers For You Today-365 Days of Heartfelt Prayers And Meditations*" (Word Alive Press)



## BEST BLOG SITE OF THE YEAR \*done\*

- Sandee Macgregor: Georgetown ON "*Sovereign Radiance*" ([sandeemacgregor.com/blog](http://sandeemacgregor.com/blog))
- Leah Marizan: Port Dover ON "*Leah Grey*" ([LeahGrey.com/blog](http://LeahGrey.com/blog))

## BEST BOOK COVER AWARD

- Susan Cullen: Chatham ON "*The World Collective*" (Chicken House Press) Cover design by Alanna Rusnak
- Ann Griffiths: Abbotsford, BC "*Reignite Your Leadership Heart*" (Redemption Press) Cover design by Lynette Bonner
- Victoria Jurgens: Saskatoon SK "*Plainfolk*" (FriesenPress) Cover design by Victoria Jurgens and Friesen Press
- Marcia Laycock: High River AB "*Merrigold's Very Best Home*" (Siretona Kids) Cover design by Kyla Wiebe and Colleen McCubbin
- Susan A. Mason: Brampton, ON "*A Feeling of Home*" (Bethany House Publishing/Baker Publishing Group) Cover design by Design Publish LLC / Jon Godfredson
- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON "*Rooted : Daily Learning the Ways of Jesus*" (Writer) Cover design by Cindy Thompson of Burst Impressions
- Beverley Hopwood: Durham, ON "*Fear in the Forest*" (Fraser River Books) Cover design by Alanna Rusnak
- Christie Thomas: Sherwood Park AB "*Fruit Full: 100 Family Experiences for Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit*" (Kregel Publications) Cover art by Luke Flowers
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie MB "*Lilly's Promise*" (Word Alive)
- Blossom Turner: Lake Country BC "*Gracie's Surrender*" (Wild Heart Books) Cover design by Evelyne Labelle with Carpe Librum Book Design
- Jennifer Willcock: Kitchener, On "*Into the Forest*" Cover design by Jenneth Dyck

# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE IT ONTO THE 2023 WORD AWARDS SHORTLIST

Copies of the 2023 Shortlist in both .docx and .pdf will be posted on  
our [Media page](#) and [Finalists page](#)

Winners of The 2023 Word Awards will be announced on  
**September 15, 2023**

## BECOME A 2023 AWARDS SPONSOR

Please consider becoming a 2023 Awards sponsor. With your assistance we support Christian writers  
across Canada.

To become a sponsor, please email us at: [awards@thewordguild.com](mailto:awards@thewordguild.com)  
or call: 1-800-969-9010 for more information.

We also wish to thank last year's sponsors for their generous support  
of The 2022 Word Awards



# THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

**GOLD  
SPONSORS**



CASTLE QUAY BOOKS

That's Life! Communications



*Books that integrate real faith with real life*

NEIL  
BRAMBLE

 **FINETUNE  
EDITING**  
CAROLYN WILKER

**light magazine**  
inspiring faith for everyday life

CORI  
MORDAUNT

HEATHER  
RODIN

ROSE  
BRANDON

CAROL FORD

 **LIVING  
BOOKS INC**

 **MURDER  
WILL OUT**

ELEANOR  
SHEPHERD

JANIS COX

**DREW KEITH**  
EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS

CLAUDIA  
LOOPSTRA

 **Redeemer  
University**

STONEBRIDGE  
ENTERPRISES

ENGAGE  
MAGAZINE

KISI PUBLISHING  
(EDDIE CHU)

THE MACKEY  
FAMILY

JOHANNE  
ROBERTSON

**testimony/Enrich**  
Lifestyle and Leadership

BLOSSOM  
TURNER

**FAITH TODAY**